



## Volunteering with the “Ridgway Creative Main Street Group”

Do you love your community and want to keep its downtown scene authentically “Ridgway” and vibrant? Do you want to take action to support Ridgway’s downtown as a great environment for thriving businesses, organizations, and activities? If so, **please apply** to become part of a new stakeholder group organized by the Town and starting up this spring. Your energy and ideas are needed!



### Purpose of the New Group

The “Ridgway Creative Main Street Group” (not necessarily its final name) merges two Town initiatives, Ridgway Creative District and Ridgway Main Street, into one community engagement effort to benefit the downtown district. Through the Town, this new group is associated with Colorado Creative Industries and Colorado Main Street at the State level, with both programs offering technical assistance, certification, and some funding for the district in support of this proposed **purpose**:

*Through inclusive representation and involvement of Ridgway’s community and economic sectors, the Ridgway Creative Main Street Group advances a welcoming, thriving, unique, safe, and ecologically responsible downtown community and business environment that encourages innovation, creative expression, entrepreneurship, and the ability to live and work in Ridgway.*

### Past Achievements

This new group will build on achievements of the Ridgway Creative District and Main Street initiatives since their beginnings in 2012. The following examples might inspire future action:

Town and Creative District logos  
MoonWalks/MoonTalks  
Ridgway First Fridays  
Bridge and N. Lena/Hwy. 62 sculptures  
RAMP Up Ridgway furnishings  
Space to Create support and artwork  
Wayfinding signage and maps  
Colorado Creative Corridor  
Participation in Town planning

Meet and Greet events  
Heritage Park Improvements planning  
Collaborations with Ridgway Area Chamber,  
Sherbino, Weehawken, and more  
Ridgway Independent Film Festival  
Communications with business owners  
Support for Old West Fest  
Exhibits of locals' creativity  
Support for Ridgway Noel Nights

### **Benefits of Involvement**

What will you receive for your efforts?

- The satisfaction that your ideas and energy contributed to the vibrancy, health and success of your community,
- A creative and fun group of people to collaborate with (maybe even some new friends),
- For business owners: local partners supporting your business' success,
- Learning opportunities such as conferences, workshops, and online resources, and
- Increased networking with local people and community groups, plus connections to a statewide and national movement focused on helping communities thrive.



### **Commitment**

This group will meet monthly for two hours. Three **Tuesday** meetings have been penciled in at this time for May and June: **May 11, May 18, and June 8**, either in the afternoon or the early evening. These three meetings will be facilitated by a professional facilitator to help get the group off the ground, through technical assistance funding from Colorado Main Street. The group will determine what days/times work best for regular meetings after that. Additional time and energy beyond monthly meetings will be involved, depending on what projects members take on. At minimum, expect 5 hours/month of well-utilized volunteer time.

